

GCH Board Meeting Minutes
February 20. 2024
Meeting held by ZOOM

Call to order at 12:00 PM by Claire Burnett

Present: Claire Burnett, Susie Barney, Nannie Brown, Briann Greenfield, Mary Ann Haar, Carrie Hammond, Nora Howard, Marian Kellner, Kathy Krackowsky, Mem Morrissey, Katie Nixon, Susan Rathgeber, Sally Richter, Julie Shushtari, Betty Standish,, Donna Stout, Margaret Szerejko

A motion to accept the January 16, 2024 Board Meeting minutes was made, seconded, and approved

President's Remarks - Claire Burnett

1. Federated Garden Club Annual Reports are due April 1st. Civic Projects, Conservation, and Horticulture are the committees that are required to complete these reports. The Annual Reports are found on the FGCCT website in the Members Area under forms. [Reminder: username = fgccct, password = CharterOak*2022]
2. The 2024 CGA Annual Meeting volunteer signup spreadsheet is being shared with club point people today. Kristen Renahan is our point person. She will be sending out an email, likely tomorrow, asking for members to sign up for volunteer slots based on the following criteria: 1) type of assignment - sitting, standing or walking, 2) day(s) and 3) time(s), rather than specific activities. Please sign up quickly as the slots will go on a first come, first served basis. We will need all hands on deck for this.
3. Don't forget to cast your vote for the Founders Fund finalist by March 1. The link will be in the Trumpet Vine. Results will be announced at the March General meeting,
4. The 41st Annual CT Flower Show takes place at the CT Convention Center Thursday Feb 22 - Sunday Feb 25. Susan Rathgeber has an entry for photography.
5. Reminder - Committee Chairs should begin planning their budgets for 2024-25. Budget requests are due at the end of February. Also, please check your committee page on the website and make sure it is up to date. Be sure to send me flyers and announcements of upcoming events and activities to me for posting.
6. Trumpet Vine articles are due this Friday Feb 23.
7. Reminder - when sending photos use photos email at GCH.org

Treasurer's Report (as of 11/21/2023) - Briann Greenfield

Carry Over	\$6,325.47
Carry Over Fund -5301	\$1,175.50
13 Month Featured CD	\$5,149.97
Main	\$28,313.26
Main Checking Account -0738	\$28,313.36
7 Month Featured CD	\$0.00
Perennial	\$20,549.28
Perennial Fund - 7034	\$2,009.37
13 Month Featured CD	\$18,539.91
Rainy Day Fund -9004	\$4,518.92
Community	\$56,412.16
Community Fund - 8539	\$46,112.21
13 Month Featured CD	\$10,299.95
Education Fund -6342	\$10,397.91
Total	\$126,517.00

We anticipate significant changes in our Main Checking and Community accounts when auction profits are finalized and transferred to the Community account.

CT Yearly Business Filing has been filed.

Planning is underway to send dues notices in early March. They will be due April 15.

We have a new dedicated Treasurer email. All check requests can now be emailed to treasurer@gchhartford.org.

You will no longer be asked to send hard copies for check requests. However, do continue to send the check request form with appropriate backup material (receipts, invoices, contracts, etc.)

Committee Reports:

Visiting Gardens- Susan Rathgeber

We are considering planning an outing to New Britain's Walnut Hill Park and the Rose Garden, with lunch at the New Britain Museum, for June, if there is any interest. - (yes!) Details to follow.

Betty Standish mentioned considering a visit to the Blau House and Gardens in Westport for a future trip.

Programs - Betty Standish

The 2024/2025 program outline is set.

- 9/10/24 September Stroll at Keney Park Old Growth Forest with Dr. Susan Masino, Herb Virgo, Willie Dunn
- 10/1/24 Connecticut Gardens with Caryn Davis
- 11/5/24 The Pollinator Victory Garden with Kim Eiermann
- 1/14/25 Joint Meeting with CT Valley Garden Club (who will be selecting the speaker) and we will be doing the hosting
- 2/4/25 CT Flower Collective with Heidi Luck, grower and seller (this is about floral arrangement flowers)
- 3/4/25 Public Meeting : How do you Dream a Park Alive with Ryan Grew (executive director of Friends of Keney Park and somewhat of a tree expert)
- 4/1/25 Container Gardening - Moveable Masterpieces with Bruce Crawford
- 5/6/25 Annual Meeting: Awards and Plant Exchange (No speaker)
- 6/3/25 Evening Cocktail Party

Kathy Krackowsky offered to check with the Hartford Golf Club's availability as a venue for the January 14 2025 Joint Meeting, and reserve it.

Membership - Katie Nixon

Pat Salner has stepped back from her chair position of this committee for family reasons.

There are two potential membership candidates in the pipeline, one sponsored by Mary Ann Haar and one by Kitty Hickcox.

There are currently 17 associate members and 22 affiliate members.

The following are petitions for change of membership status:

- Marnie Greenwood from active to associate
- Pat Salner from active to associate

- Jan Whelan from active to affiliate

A **motion** was made by Claire Burnett to accept Marnie Greenwood's and Pat Salner's status changes from active to associate. The motion was seconded and approved .

A **motion** was made by Claire Burnett to accept Jan Whelan's status change from active to affiliate. The motion was seconded and approved.

Sandy Fromson is changing status from affiliate primary to affiliate secondary. She will pay dues to her affiliate primary club (Stonington)

Civic Improvement - Carrie Hammond

The committee is wrapping things up with Keney Park; we will do some replanting of some areas in the spring.

We are hoping to start work on the Park St. Library design as soon as we get the design plan and budget. We will have to determine how much we will use of the money available to us, keeping future projects in mind. The DPW director, Chris Hayes, will be good to work with.

Nominating - Nannie Brown

The full slate of officers will be ready to announce at the Annual Meeting in May.

There was some discussion clarifying the role of the Executive Committee's Member-at-Large who is elected at the annual meeting and serves in an advisory capacity to the Board. The Nominating Committee Chair appoints the three members of the Nominating Committee, as stated in the bylaws.

Other Business:

- Betty Standish petitioned the board to consider support of Hartford's Chrysalis Center Food Hub, whose mission is to bring access to fresh and nutritious food to underserved people in the area. The Center's Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser, to be held on March 27, 2024, is looking for sponsors. The Board expressed reservations about how this particular fundraiser relates to the GCH mission and voted not to donate to the gala , but to look again at certain aspects of the Food Hub's mission when considering future projects.
- Reminder that there will be a Flower Design Workshop, Thursday March 28 at St James Episcopal Church , West Hartford. See Trumpet Vine for details
- Next GCH General Meeting is an evening meeting on March 5, please RSVP to Susan Rathgeber

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Szerejko
Recording Secretary